

June 15, 2023

The following statement is attributed to Jeff Schlanger, Independent Consent Decree Monitor for the City of Aurora:

First and foremost, I would like to extend my heartfelt condolences to the family of Jor'Dell Richardson. The sudden, violent death of a 14-year-old boy is an unimaginable tragedy—nothing can alleviate the pain.

As the Independent Consent Decree Monitor for the City of Aurora, my primary responsibility in such cases is to ensure that the investigations into the incident are conducted thoroughly and fairly. It is crucial to ensure that all evidence was considered in those investigations and that they appropriately determined whether the actions of the police officers were in accordance with state laws and the policies of the Aurora Police Department.

Moreover, in line with a fundamental principle of the Consent Decree which aims to foster a culture of continuous improvement within the Department, it is imperative that the Department learn as much as possible from this incident. The department must always ask itself: What could have been done differently to have potentially achieved a better outcome?

Transparency is another vital aspect of the Consent Decree. Following an officer-involved shooting, the Department has a responsibility to provide information to both the family and the public. The Department must strive for maximum possible transparency in such cases, making it an operational imperative.

In accordance with my role, once the investigations into the tragedy of Jor'Dell Richardson's death are concluded, the Monitor Team will critically evaluate not only the internal investigation conducted by APD and the use of force itself, but also the Department's efforts in continuous improvement and transparency. The relevant findings and recommendations will be published in an upcoming report. There will, no doubt, be valuable lessons to learn from this tragic incident that will serve to better the Department as we move forward.

Jeff Schlanger
Independent Consent Decree Monitor for the City of Aurora